

**Grass Lawn Neighborhood  
Alternatives and Preliminary Recommendations**

**Possible Closure of 80<sup>th</sup> Street Right-of-Way**

<b>Issue:</b>	The City Council is considering closing 80 <sup>th</sup> Street to through traffic between 140 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and Redmond Way east of Stratford Village and has asked the Grass Lawn Citizens Advisory Committee for a recommendation on the issue.
<b>Background/ Description:</b>  <u>What is the 6-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)?</u> The 6-year TIP is a short-range planning document that identifies funded, and unfunded projects that are planned or needed over the next six years. The TIP is updated annually by the City Council, and is based on needs and policies identified in the more long-range plans such as the Redmond Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Master Plan.	<b>Background</b>  A proposal to close 80 <sup>th</sup> Street at Redmond Way and use the vacated portion of the street for a local resource park adjacent to Scott's Pond was originally proposed as a project to be added to the City's 2003-2008 six-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) <i>see attached map</i> . The total cost of the project was estimated to be \$600,000 with an assumed construction year of 2006. The Council felt other projects had a higher priority at the time and decided not to add the project to the 2003-2008 TIP. Since that decision was made, the Council has received various comments from the public requesting the street be closed for safety reasons. Some who live near the area noted cut-through traffic by drivers who want to avoid the traffic light at 140 <sup>th</sup> Avenue and Redmond. Therefore, the City Council has asked the Grass Lawn Citizens Advisory Committee to provide a recommendation to the Council on whether the street should be closed or not.  <b>Description</b>  If 80 <sup>th</sup> Street is closed, an access point to Redmond Way will be removed thereby improving traffic management on Redmond Way. Reducing access points on Redmond Way would improve safety and allow for smoother traffic flow. However, closure of the street would increase the number of right turns from northbound 140 <sup>th</sup> Avenue onto Redmond Way, which could lead to more traffic congestion at this intersection. The 140 <sup>th</sup> Avenue project does add a new northbound right turn lane between 80 <sup>th</sup> Street and Redmond Way that would significantly reduce or eliminate any new congestion at the intersection resulting from the new northbound right-turns resulting from the closure. Closure of the street would also mitigate safety concerns from traffic trying to avoid the traffic light at 140 <sup>th</sup> Avenue and Redmond Way. The 140 <sup>th</sup> Avenue project also reduces the width of 80 <sup>th</sup> Street on the east side of 140 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, which will help slow vehicles.
<b>Alternatives:</b>	1. <u>Recommend to the City Council that 80<sup>th</sup> Street be closed.</u> Reasons include: a. <b>Safety</b> - Project is primarily considered a safety project, although it is partially alleviating a potential safety problem

	<p>although it is partially alleviating a potential safety problem. Accident data indicates that there have been six property damage-only accidents in the last four years at Redmond Way and 80<sup>th</sup> Street. It would also reduce cut-through traffic on 80<sup>th</sup> Street.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>b. <b>Access Management</b> - Further elimination of an access on Redmond Way is considered access management. An alternative access to Redmond Way is readily available at 140<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE for people who currently access at NE 80<sup>th</sup> Street. Since Redmond Way is a major through street and moves a significant number of people and freight, this is an opportunity to further improve the efficiency of the corridor.</li><li>c. <b>Future Projects</b> - Elimination of the access may also make future Redmond Way projects easier and less costly because this street does not need to be accommodated.</li><li>d. <b>Future Park Opportunity</b> - The opportunity that presents itself as a result of the road closure is the development of a larger contiguous piece of open space (property on either side of the current street right-of-way is owned by the City) that could be potentially used as a future park location to serve the Grass Lawn neighborhood.</li></ul> <p>2. <u>Recommend to the City Council that 80<sup>th</sup> Street remain open and not be closed.</u> Reasons include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. <b>Safety</b> – 80<sup>th</sup> Street and Redmond Way are not currently a significant safety problem.</li><li>b. <b>Vehicle Access</b> – Saves time and enables more direct access for vehicles wanting to go westbound on Redmond Way from the Grass Lawn neighborhood, particularly from Stratford Village.</li></ul> <p>3. <u>Recommend to the City Council that further efforts be made to prevent cut-through traffic on 80<sup>th</sup> Street, particularly in the short-term, through the use of speed humps, or traffic calming treatments.</u> Reasons include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. <b>Safety</b> – Would reduce cut-through traffic on street. 80<sup>th</sup> Street and Redmond Way are not currently a significant safety problem.</li><li>b. <b>Vehicle Access</b> – Would allow access for vehicles wanting to go westbound on Redmond Way from the Grass Lawn neighborhood, particularly from Stratford Village.</li></ul>
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